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8 **BEFORE THE**
9 **BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING**
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

12 In the Matter of the Statement of Issues
Against:

13 **SARAH KATHRYN CHRISTOPHER**
18038 W. Anne's Circle, Apt. 203
14 Canyon Country, CA 91387

15 Respondent.

Case No. 2011-937

STATEMENT OF ISSUES

16 Complainant alleges:

17 **PARTIES**

18 1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN (Complainant) brings this Statement of Issues solely in
19 her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of
20 Consumer Affairs.

21 2. On or about January 25, 2010 the Board of Registered Nursing (Board) received an
22 application for Registered Nurse Licensure by Endorsement from Sarah Kathryn Christopher
23 (Respondent). On or about January 22, 2010, Respondent certified under penalty of perjury to the
24 truthfulness of all statements, answers, and representations in the application. The Board denied
25 the application on October 25, 2010.

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“(f) Conviction of a felony or of any offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a registered nurse, in which event the record of the conviction shall be conclusive evidence thereof.”

REGULATORY PROVISIONS

8. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1444 states, in pertinent part:

“A conviction or act shall be considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a registered nurse if to a substantial degree it evidences the present or potential unfitness of a registered nurse to practice in a manner consistent with the public health, safety, or welfare.”

FIRST CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

(Conviction of Substantially Related Crime)

9. Respondent's application is subject to denial under sections 480, subdivision (a)(1), and 2761, subdivision (f), in that Respondent was convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a Registered Nurse. On or about September 27, 2010, Respondent was convicted, upon a plea of nolo contendere, of one misdemeanor count of violating Penal Code section 484, subdivision (a) (petty theft), in the criminal proceeding entitled *The State of California v. Sarah Kathryn Christopher* (Super Ct. Los Angeles County, 2010, No. 0NW01397). The Court sentenced Respondent to one day in jail, placed her on probation for three years, and ordered her to pay \$607.00 in fines and restitution. The circumstances of the conviction are that on or about February 28, 2010, Respondent entered Sport Chalet during normal business hours, selected four Nike brand women's shirts totaling \$130.00, and exited the store without paying for them. Respondent admitted to Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies that she had money to purchase the shirts, but that she decided on "an impulse" to steal them instead.

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